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Stedman's

Medical Dictionary



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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American heritage Stedman's medical dictionary.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-395-69955-X

1. Medicine—Dictionaries.

R121.A53 1995

610'.3—dc20

95-10806

CIP

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or group of muscles. 2. A muscle

spasmolysis

spā'lik *adj.* 1. Relating to, affected by, or character of a spasm; convulsive, intermittently, titill. 3. Given to sudden energy or of feeling; excitable. *ly adv.*

rrhea n. Dysmenorrhea accompanied by contractions of the uterus.

-mol'i-sis, n. Arrest of a spasm or

'mo-lit'ik *adj.* Causing arrest of a spasm. — *n.* Antispasmodic.

spā' mas nōō'tānz', nyōō'-j *n.* 1. 2. Nystagmus with head-nodding

adj. 1. Relating to or affected by spastic paralysis.

basia due to spastic contraction of

it characterized by stiffness of legs,

n. Hemiplegia accompanied by rigidity of the affected side.

dynamic ileus.

s'f-tē *n.* 1. A spastic state or condition.

A chronic pathological condition in which muscles are affected by persistent generated tendon reflexes because of central nervous system.

'spā'shəl *adj.* Relating to space or

-al'i-ty (*'spā'shē-āl'i-tē*) *n.* — *spā'*

-ālīt *adj.* Having a broad flat end.

spay-ing, spays. To surgically remove

of an animal.

prothrombin conversion accelerator

spēsh'āl *n.* The study of organs or

that perform special physiological

-ālīt *n.* A physician whose practice is in

articular branch of medicine or surgery

one who is certified by a board of

spēsh'āl-i-zā'shən *n.* 1. The act of

A specialty. 3. Adaptation, as of an

ism, to a specific function or environment

erentiation (sense 1).

'ā-liz' *n.* -ized, -izing, -izes. 1. To

session to a particular specialty of

study, research, or treatment. 2. To

cular function or environment.

any of the five senses related to the

hearing, smell, taste, and touch.

'āl-tē *n.* A branch of medicine or

a physician specializes; the field of

specialist.

'shē-ā'shən, -sē *n.* The evolution

of new biological species, usually by

the division of a single species into two or more genetically distinct ones.

species *spe'shez, -sez, n., pl. species.* 1. A fundamental

category of taxonomic classification, ranking below

a genus or subgenus and consisting of related

organisms capable of interbreeding. 2. An organism

belonging to such a category, represented in binomial

nomenclature by an uncapitalized Latin adjective

or noun following a capitalized genus name, as in the bacterium

Escherichia coli. 3. A class of pharmaceutical preparations consisting of a mixture of

dried plants in sufficiently fine division to be used in

making boiled extracts or infusions. 4. A specific

type of atomic nucleus, atom, ion, or molecule.

species-specific *adj.* 1. Limited to or found only in one

species. 2. Of or being a serum that acts only upon a

member of the same species as that from which the

original antigen was obtained.

species-specific antigen *n.* An antigen that is common

to members of a single species and that provides a

means by which that species can be immunologically

distinguished.

spe-cif-ic (*spī-sif'ik*) *adj.* 1. Relating to, characterizing,

or distinguishing a species. 2. Intended for, applying

to, or acting on a specified thing. 3. Designating a

disease produced by a particular microorganism or

condition. 4. Having a remedial influence or effect

on a particular disease. 5. In immunology, having an

affinity limited to a particular antibody or antigen.

— *n.* A remedy intended for a particular ailment or

disorder. — *spe-cif-i-cal-ly adv.*

specific action *n.* The action of a drug or treatment

that has a direct, curative effect upon a disease.

specific activity *n.* Radioactivity per unit mass of a

stated element or compound.

specific dynamic action *n.* *Abbr.* SDA An increase in

the production of heat caused by the ingestion of

food, especially proteins.

specific gravity *n.* *Abbr.* sg, sp gr The ratio of the mass

of a solid or liquid to the mass of an equal volume

of distilled water at 4°C (39°F) or of a gas to an

equal volume of air or hydrogen under prescribed

conditions of temperature and pressure.

specific immune globulin *n.* The globulin fraction of

pooled sera or plasma from human donors having a

normally high titer of antibodies specific for a particular

antigen or a high titer of specific antibodies

as a result of immunization.

specific immunity *n.* Immunity against a specific anti-

gen or disease.

spec-i-fic-i-ty (*spēs'ā-fis'i-tē*) *n.* 1. The condition or

state of being specific. 2. The statistical probability

that an individual who does not have the particular

disease being tested for will be correctly identified as

negative, expressed as the proportion of true negative

results to the total of true negative and false

positive results.

specific opsonin *n.* Opsonin formed in response to

stimulation by a specific antigen.

specific parasite *n.* A parasite that habitually lives in

its present host and is particularly adapted for the

host species.

specific reaction *n.* A phenomenon produced by an agent identical with or immunologically related to an agent that has altered the capacity of a certain tissue to react.

specific rotation *n.* *symbol* α The arc of rotation, expressed in angular degrees, through which the plane

of polarized light moves when it is in a light path

one decimeter in length passing through a solution

containing one gram of a compound per one milliliter

water.

specific urethritis *n.* Urethritis caused by gonococci.

spec-i-men *spēs'ā-man* *n.* A sample, as of tissue, blood,

or urine, used for analysis and diagnosis.

SPECT *abbr.* single photon emission computed tomography

spec-ta-cles (*spēk'tā-kalz*) *n.* See *glasses* (sense 3).

spec-ti-no-my-cin (*spēk'tā-nō-mī'sin*) *n.* A broad-

spectrum antibiotic obtained from a species of gram-negative

bacteria or produced synthetically, used especially in the treatment of gonorrhea that

is resistant to penicillin.

spec-tral (*spēk'trāl*) *adj.* Of, relating to, or produced by a spectrum.

— *spec-tral'i-ty* (*-trāl'i-tē*), *spec-tral-ness* (*-trāl-nis*) *n.*

spec-trin (*spēk'trīn*) *n.* A contractile protein of high molecular weight that is a component of a network

in the membrane of red blood cells, giving the cells flexibility.

spectro- *pref.* Spectrum: *spectroscope*.

spec-trom-e-ter (*spēk-trōm'i-tēr*) *n.* A spectroscope

equipped with scales for measuring wavelengths or indexes of refraction.

— *spec'tro-met'ric* (*-trā-mēt'rik*) *adj.*

spec-trom-e-try (*spēk-trōm'i-trē*) *n.* The observation and measurement of wavelengths of light or other electromagnetic radiation.

spec-tro-pho-tom-e-ter (*spēk'trō-fō-tōm'i-tēr*) *n.* An instrument for measuring the intensity of light of a

definite wavelength transmitted by a substance or a solution, thus providing a measure of the amount

of material in the solution absorbing the light.

— *spec'tro-pho'to-met'ric* (*-fō'tā-mēt'rik*) *adj.*

spectrophotometric analysis *n.* The determination of the structure or quantity of substances by measuring their capacity to absorb light of various wavelengths.

Also called *spectrophotometry*.

spec-tro-scope (*spēk'trā-skōp*) *n.* An instrument for producing and observing spectra.

— *spec'tro-scop'ic* (*-skōp'ik*), *spec'tro-scop'i-cal* (*-i-kāl*) *adj.*

spec-tros-co-py (*spēk-trōs'kō-pē*) *n.* The study of spectra, especially experimental observation of optical spectra.

— *spec-tros'co-pist* *n.*

spec-trum (*spēk'trām*, *n., pl. -trums* or *-tra*, *-trā*) *n.* 1. The distribution of a characteristic of a physical system or phenomenon, especially the distribution of energy emitted by a radiant source arranged in order of wavelengths.

2. The color image presented when white light is resolved into its constituent colors;

its present host and is particularly adapted for the

host species.

specific reaction *n.* A phenomenon produced by an agent identical with or immunologically related to an agent that has altered the capacity of a certain tissue to react.

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